

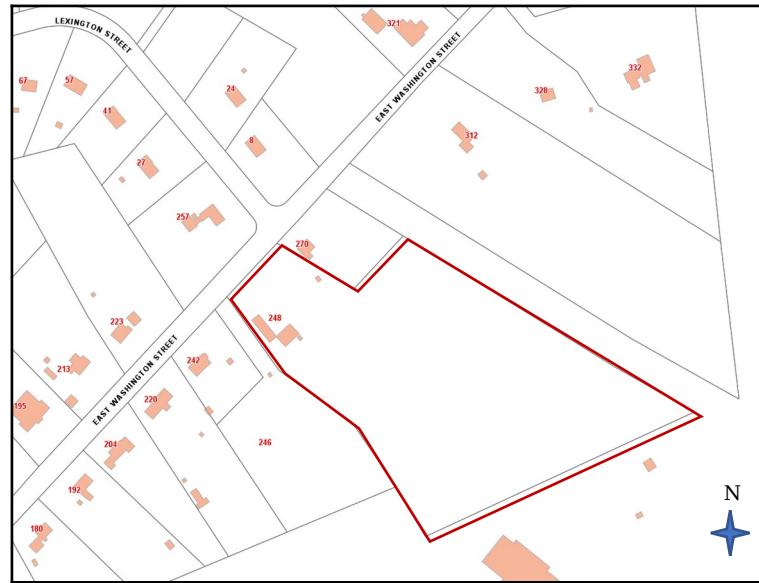
FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL
COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lara Kritzer, JM Goldson
community preservation + planning

Organization: Town of Hanson Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): June 2018

99-0-11-0	Hanover		HNS.197
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Town/City: Hanson

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Address: 248 East Washington Street

Historic Name: North School-Lot and Deborah Barker House

Uses: Present: Single-Family Dwelling

Original: School

Date of Construction: ca. 1800

Source: White's History, Plan 5, No. 15, Page 84

Style/Form: No Style

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material: Unknown

Foundation: Brick/Stone

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboard/Wood

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

None

Major Alterations (with dates): Shed dormers and addition to the south façade (ca. 1860)

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**
1840-1856

Acreage: 8.51 Acres

Setting: Located on one of Hanson's main thoroughfares in an area of predominantly single-family homes ranging from early eighteenth century farmhouses to late twentieth century suburban development on large lots which includes grass lawns and numerous mature trees, bushes, and other vegetation.

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- Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The one-and-a-half story structure sits with its gable-end façade to the street in the northwest corner of a large, wooded lot and is set far back from the street. The building has an asphalt shingled gable roof with a projecting front entry centered on the west façade. A long, low one-story addition with an open porch across its west façade is attached to the south facade of the house and connects the building to the large barn which runs perpendicular to the main house at the southern end of the complex. The buildings are wood clapboard sided with narrow wood corner boards and unembellished wood trim around the doors and windows. The lower edge of the roof extend out slightly over the gable facades and have wood eaves over narrow wood cornice boards. On the gable-ends, the roof also projects out slightly beyond the façades below with a band of wood trim along its projecting outer edge. The house has retained its original, or early, wood double hung windows which are six-over-six in design.

As noted above, the front façade of the house faces west and away from the street which runs along the north property line. The north gable-end has three large double hung windows. A row of evergreen bushes along the foundation screens the lower half of the building from view. To the east, a low, narrow shed dormer is located in the northeast corner of the façade. The dormer is finished in wood clapboard with wood trim to match the rest of the house. The east façade of the dormer is just tall enough to accommodate two narrow rectangular windows. On the first floor below, the original house has a large and a small double hung window. The long addition to the south façade of the house steps in from the southeast corner of the structure and is finished to match the main house. Its roof ridge is lower than the roof of the main house, and a skylight is located in its east gable slope. On the east façade, a large three-part picture window is located in the left corner with two smaller double hung windows to the right. The barn is attached to the southeast corner of the addition's south façade and extends to the east of the dwelling. The north façade of the barn is a tall, solid wood clapboard wall below a long, deteriorating asphalt shingled gable roof. The east façade of the barn has painted wood trim surrounding the gable-end and along the corner boards. A single double hung window is visible in its gable-end from the street.

On the west façade, the front entrance is at the center of the original building in a projecting entry. The entrance has a gable-end roof with the same detailing as the north façade's gable-end. The enclosure's roof extends out from the west gable end of the house, and the cornice trim of the west façade continues along each side. It has the appearance of being unusually tall for the scale of the house, and the entrance surround is located well below the pediment. The surround appears to be original to the building and was probably moved out from the west façade when the entry was added. The top of the frame is finished with a wide, flat board that has a projecting upper edge which comes to a shallow peak at the center of the frame. Wide wood trim boards run down either side of the entrance. The distance of the door from the street makes further details hard to determine and a storm door covers the main entrance door to the house. Two double hung windows are located on the façade to either side of the entrance. On the roof above are two low, shallow shed dormers, one on each side of the door. These dormers match the east façade's dormer the same trim and detailing, narrow rectangular windows, and low profile.

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Behind the main house, the addition to the south façade is set well back from its southwest corner. The west gable roof slope extends out just before its lower edge into a long shed roof that covers an open porch running the length of the façade. This porch extends about a foot out from the west façade of the original house and has square posts and tall wood railings with square balusters along its western edge. Near the southwest corner of the addition, a large rectangular brick chimney juts out from the center of the porch roof. The depth of the porch obscures the west façade of the addition from view. The west façade of the barn is set well back from the west façade of the dwelling. Two double hung windows on its second floor are the only details visible from the street.

The house shares a dirt and gravel driveway with another property to the southwest of the house. The driveway runs along the west side of the house, and a short cement walkway connects the main entrance, which has a low cement landing, to the driveway. Vehicles are parked in front of the barn and house, obscuring views to the buildings. Evergreen bushes and plantings line the north and west sides of the house, and large, mature trees and bushes surround the driveway. Although the land directly to the north and west of the house is largely open lawn, the rest of the site and the adjacent properties are heavily wooded

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

According to White's History of Hanson, 248 Washington Street was originally built for school purposes and was located on the north side of East Washington Street (then Willow Street) where the present brick North Grammar School now stands. This may be the first school in Hanson, then Pembroke, and White notes that his father attended school in this building, although the dates suggest that it was more likely his grandfather, also Joseph White, who would have attended this school. Gurney's 1884 History records that "The site of the second house mentioned above is on the Bridgewater road, opposite the grammar school-house, a little to the west"¹ and the Hanson Historical Commission's 1960 "History of Town of Hanson" supports White's description, reporting that the first school was "used until 1840, was located on the lot where the present Washington Street School is. Mr. Joseph White and Mr. Lot Barker attended this school. It was sold and moved to land belonging to Lot Barker where it was made into a dwelling."² White estimated that the building dated to around 1800 and used until 1840 but the structure does not appear on the 1830 Smith Plan of Hanson. The 1830 Smith Plan does show two schools in the vicinity - School No. 8 on East Washington Street and an unnumbered school on Whitman Street - which may suggest that the former school building had already been closed at the time that the map was drawn. The 1856 Walling Map of Hanson and 1879 Richards Atlas simply list "school" for the site and provide no details on its design or configuration. However, by the 1903 Richards Map the existing North Grammar School is listed on the parcel.

White explains that the building was later purchased by Mr. Lot P. Barker (1818-1888), a shoemaker and former student of the school, who moved it to his land on the south side of Willow Street (now East Washington Street) and converted it into a dwelling. L.B. Barker is listed as living here on the 1856 Walling Map, which suggests that the school was sold and relocated between 1840 and 1856. Lot Barker was married to Deborah Soper of Livermore, Maine (1815-1891) and had eight children: Florinda, Sarah, Philip, Dewitt Clinton, Frederic, Hellen, William and George. In 1860, Thomas Pratt built a porch on the house for Mr. Barker which is presumably the one running along the west ³façade of the addition. The barn to the south of the house was moved here from the Soper place above North Hanson depot sometime before 1903, when it is visible on the 1903 Richards Atlas as being attached to the southeast corner of the house. In 1895, his son William H Barker, who is listed on this same 1903 Richards Atlas, purchased the property from his siblings and the other heirs of L.P. Barker.

¹ E.B.K. Gurvey, "History of Hanson," in D.H. Hurd, *History of Plymouth County* (1884), p. 347.
https://archive.org/stream/historyofplymout00hurd_0#page/347/mode/2up

² Hanson Historical Committee, "History of the Town of Hanson," typescript, nd (c.1960), approx. 550 pp., unpaginated. Collection of the Hanson Public Library, and uploaded to Archive.org, 2009. <https://archive.org/details/historyoftownofh00sn/page/n643>

³ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1083, Page 309

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William and his wife, Eliza, lived in the house until 1911, when they sold it to Rose and Percy Brown from Chicago, IL. Percy Brown was a farmer and the Browns lived here with Percy's mother, Sarah, until 1926, when they sold the property to Milton and Beatrice Merritt.⁴ Milton Merritt (1869-1956) is listed as a "Poultry Man" in the 1930 and 1940 U.S. Censuses and ran a poultry farm on the property. In 1955, Milton sold the property to James and Gertrude Merritt and moved to Charlton, MA. James and Gertrude lived in San Francisco and sold the property in 1956 to Louis and Jean Lemieux. The Lemieux are responsible for subdividing the original lot into three new lots according to a plan completed in 1962 by Delano and Keith, Surveyors, of Plymouth.⁵ The surveyed plan created too small 30,000 square foot lots along East Washington Street at the far edges of the site. The buildings remained on Lot 3, which was a 12.4 acre parcel.

Lemieux sold Lot 3 to John and Virginia Kelley in 1962. The two smaller lots were sold by 1964. The Kelleys only owned the property for a year, selling it in 1963 to Jack and Betty Buchanan.⁶ The Buchanans also subdivided the lot, creating a third 30,000 sq. ft. lot along the street in 1966.⁷ The house, now on an 11.7 acre lot, was sold as Lot 1 in 1966 to Richard J. and Katherine Sullivan. The property changed hands multiple times over the next ten years. In 1976, current owner Gilbert Grabowski, purchased the property with his wife Sandra.⁸ He now co-owns the property with his son Mark and daughter-in-law, Rachel.⁹

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⁴ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1507, Page 76

⁵ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Plan 631 of 1962

⁶ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 3043, Page 487

⁷ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Plan #209, 1966

⁸ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Book 4222, Page 773

⁹ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 35254, Page 329

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